



## Object of the Newsletter

*To promote the appreciation of fine Scotch Whisky, the area from which it comes, the people that inhabit the land and it's history. By the way, I do not profess to be an expert, I am merely expressing an opinion on the whiskies I am tasting.*

In this issue I look at Old Pulteney "Navigator" a limited edition single malt with no age statement. Old Pulteney is known as the maritime malt and you do get some brine on the finish of this one. For more on Old Pulteney distillery see issue 14.

The "Navigator" is aged in a mix of sherry and bourbon casks, which does impart some fruit aspects to the nose and palate.

If you like Old Pulteney 12, and I do (a lot) then by all means give this one a try, personally I prefer the 12-year-old.

For me this one could, and should have spent a few more years in the barrel, not a bad dram just a little immature.

This seems to be a trend that is spreading, with many NAS (No Age Statement) whiskies appearing on the market, some work, some don't. This one would work a lot better for around \$45.00.

You can buy Old Pulteney "Navigator" for around \$70.00 a bottle.

### Tasting Notes;

**Nose** - Green apple, citrus, cereal & vanilla

**Palate** - Orange & honey

**Finish** - Cereal, honey & Salty

*If you have a personal favorite and you would like it to feature in future "Slange" newsletters, please let me know. I can be contacted at my website [www.scot-talks.com](http://www.scot-talks.com)*

*"Slainte Mhath"*

*Paul Bissett*





## American always, Scottish forever

by Phil Coomes (picture editor BBC)

<http://www.bbc.com/news/in-pictures-27891460>

On 18 September, voters in Scotland will be asked in a referendum whether they want the nation to become independent from the rest of the United Kingdom. Yet, across the Pond, there are many Americans with Scottish ancestry, something celebrated at California's Highland Games season. Here photographer Stephen McLaren sets out his take on the event and shares some of his portraits.

Despite President Obama's hopes for Scotland to remain in the UK, the Scottish cultural spirit - which includes pipe bands, sword-dancing, tossing the caber and sheepdog trials - is alive, well and independence-minded in California. An annual calendar of around 20 Scottish festivals and Highland Games brings a mix of recent Scottish emigres and those for whom Scotland is an approximate but proud source of their family heritage.



These events have been going for more than a century and with the skirl of the pipes and shouts of hammer throwers resounding, it could be any Highland Games in Scotland. However, the sweltering heat, the imposing palm trees and the surprising recognition that every kilt-wearer speaks with a full-on American accent quickly reminds you that you are 5,000 miles away from heather, peat and misty glens.



Below is a simple guide to help you choose your single malt Whisky, and the flavor notes you should expect from it. Being Scottish I recommend you find a likely candidate and try it in a bar before buying the whole bottle. With each issue of the newsletter I will add in another Whisky to the flavor map. This Issue; Old Pulteney "Navigator" For more information go to <http://www.oldpulteney.com/>





## American always, Scottish forever Cont.

Away from the sporting arenas and music stages, clan associations are on hand to help those researching their family tree and locate the ancestral home. For those with money to spend on heritage goods, traders sell a panoply of kilts, musical instruments, food and heavy-bladed weapons, which may, or may not, have been used at Culloden.

As a Scottish photographer who has never worn a kilt, I have been a double rarity at these events. In the first instance, being born in Scotland meant that I was one of the few attending who had the complexion and accent to convincingly be Scottish. Second, tartan irritates my skin so my attire was always less Caledonian than the participants at these action-packed and fun family-focused events.



Watching these smiley, tanned Californians revel in a weekend of festivities where they get to dress up in Highland garb and imagine themselves as sons or daughters of the glen, it seemed obvious for me to talk to and photograph as many as I could. Unusually for any photography project, not one of the people I asked to be photographed refused, and all were as polite and willing to help me find the best shot.



## American always, Scottish forever Cont.

What was also surprising to me was how many of those people who agreed to pose thought that, contrary to their president, it was imperative that Scotland become independent.

Some were well versed in the stories of rural Scotland being cleared of people in favour of more profitable sheep in the 18th Century and a degree of bitterness resides in those whose families may have been shipped to the American colonies as a result. Others expressed the view that Scotland had more going for it in the way of history and grandeur than other independent nations and that being part of the UK was holding back Scotland from maximising its potential and its resources.



I was unsure whether these views were overly sentimentalised notions of a country only a few had visited, but the views expressed were certainly deeply held and probably reflective of a country whose own independence from Britain is much treasured and celebrated.

To read the full article Go to <http://www.bbc.com/news/in-pictures-27891460> also see a further selection of pictures from the project, which can be seen at impression Gallery (<http://www.impressions-gallery.com>) in Bradford from 1 July until 27 September 2014, as part of Beyond the Border, which brings together four Scottish photographers. Stephen McLaren is a member of Document Scotland <http://www.documentscotland.com/>